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VERMONT PUBLIC  
SERVICE BOARD

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## Vermont Grocers' Association

October 25, 2006

Deena L. Frankel  
Executive Director  
Vermont Public Service Board  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620

RE: Electric Affordability Proposals

Dear Deena:

On behalf of the Vermont Grocers' Association I am writing in support of the electric affordability proposal submitted by the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce/Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation.

If a new assistance program to individuals in need is undertaken, it should be funded by general fund revenues and not a new tax on electric bills. As Congress approved legislation some time back to help families with food assistance through the establishment of the food stamp program and subsequently with the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC), they fund those food programs through the general fund and not through a tax on groceries.

A new tax on electric bills has no bearing or relationship to one's financial condition or their ability to fund a new program. We do not believe a new affordability program should be funded in this manner.

Additionally, as outlined in the LCC/GBIC proposal, assistance should first and foremost be given to individuals with the Efficiency Vermont program. Such efforts should help lower one's electric bill and provide the most direct help to them.

Sincerely,

Jim Harrison  
Vermont Grocers' Association

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